

Senate Bill 337 Hearing Testimony

EXHIBIT 12  
DATE 3/19/09  
SB 337

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee,


Thank you for your time, service, and consideration of this very important issue.

My name is Matt Skoglund, and I am a wildlife advocate for the Natural Resources Defense Council in Livingston, Montana. On behalf of NRDC's more than 1.2 million members and online activists, and its over 2,500 members in Montana, I am here to respectfully urge you to vote Against Senate Bill 337.

At its core, this bill is about interference and obstruction. It interferes with a program coordinated and supported by multiple federal and state agencies that has existed for four years. It obstructs the opportunity for Native American reservations to restore wild bison herds from the invaluable, genetically pure Yellowstone bison herd. Senate Bill 337 thwarts science, and it takes a blowtorch to all the taxpayer money that has gone into the quarantine program.

As this committee is well aware, the issue of wild bison in Montana has been riddled with problems for years, and all of us want to move forward and find more positive solutions. But in order to do so, we need progressive, forward-thinking, proactive ideas and proposals. Senate Bill 337 is no such thing. If enacted, it will impede progress, deprive Native American Tribes of a great opportunity, and be a step in the wrong direction for Montana.

Please vote against it. Thank you for your time.

  
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